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The North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service has again demonstrated the vital role it plays in and its commitment to our state's most important industry with the publication of *North Dakota Agricultural Statistics 2002*.

This comprehensive picture of North Dakota agriculture reflects both the growth of the industry, as well as its increasing diversity. North Dakota is the national leader in a variety of crops ranging from such traditional commodities as spring wheat and barley to newer crops like canola and dry edible beans.

North Dakota producers depend on this yearbook to help them make planting, production and marketing decisions. The information here is vital to helping us recognize and understand the available opportunities for our more than 30,000 family farmers and ranchers.

This valuable resource is made possible through the cooperation of state and federal agencies and institutions, and more especially by the producers who willingly share their production information for the benefit of the entire industry.



The North Dakota Department of Agriculture is proud of its association with the North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. We are also pleased to help bring you *North Dakota Agricultural Statistics 2002*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Roger Johnson".

Roger Johnson
Agriculture Commissioner